

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

RODARIUS GREEN a/k/a ROD WAVE,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 4:23--cv-04509
	)	
VARIOUS JOHN DOES, JANE DOES and	)	Judge Lee H. Rosenthal
ABC COMPANIES	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

**SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR TRADEMARK  
INFRINGEMENT AND UNFAIR COMPETITION**

1. This Court has exclusive jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) and 15 U.S.C. §§ 1121, 1125, 1126 and 1116. This action arises under the Lanham Trademark Act (15 U.S.C. § 1051, *et seq.*).

2. Plaintiff Rodarius Green a/k/a Rod Wave (“Plaintiff”) is a resident of Florida.

3. Defendants Various John Does and Jane Does were residents of or transacted and did business in and/or were present in Houston, Texas on and before December 7, 2023 or are now conspiring to travel and otherwise traveling to the other states listed in Schedule A hereto and are subject to the jurisdiction of this Court. The identities of the Various John Does and Jane Does are not presently known.

4. Defendants ABC Companies, through their agents, servants and employees, transacted and did business in and/or were present in Houston, Texas on and before December 7, 2023 or are now conspiring to travel and otherwise traveling to other states listed in Schedule A

hereto and are subject to the jurisdiction of this Court. The identities of the ABC Companies are not presently known.

### **THE PARTIES**

5. Since as early as 2015, Rod Wave has used the ROD WAVE trademark to identify himself in all phases of the entertainment industry and to distinguish himself from other professional musical performers.

6. Rod Wave owns the exclusive right to market merchandise, including, but not limited to, clothing, jewelry, photographs and posters bearing the ROD WAVE name, trademark, logos, and/or likeness at concert engagements throughout the United States.

7. Defendants are numerous independent unlicensed peddlers and manufacturing and distributing companies who distributed and sold unauthorized bootleg and inferior merchandise embodying the ROD WAVE name, trademark, logos and/or likeness (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Bootleg Merchandise") including, but not limited to, t-shirts outside the confines of the Toyota Center, Houston, Texas on December 7, 2023 and at other Rod Wave concerts on his tours, and will continue to do on his 2024 tour, a partial itinerary of which is listed on Exhibit A hereto, in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the Lanham Act. The identities of Defendants are not presently known and cannot be known unless they voluntarily permit themselves to be identified.

### **BACKGROUND**

8. To date, in excess of ten (10) million copies of recordings embodying the performances of Rod Wave have been sold.

9. To date, in excess of two (2) Million Dollars' worth of licensed merchandise bearing the ROD WAVE name, trademark, logos and/or likeness have been sold.

10. Since as early as 2015, Rod Wave has used the ROD WAVE mark to identify his services as a musical performer. Rod Wave has sought to distinguish merchandise pertaining to him from merchandise made and sold and pertaining to others by prominently displaying the ROD WAVE trademark and/or likeness on t-shirts and other merchandise items associated with Rod Wave.

11. Rod Wave is resuming his tour of the United States on October 15, 2024. The ROD WAVE concert itinerary, in part, is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

12. Based upon what has occurred on this and prior tours, it can be stated with certainty that outside the concert halls at which ROD WAVE is performing, before, during and after his appearances, Defendants have sold and will attempt to sell imitation and inferior Bootleg Merchandise.

13. The sale of the Bootleg Merchandise by Defendants is and will be without Plaintiff's permission or authority.

14. This unlawful activity results in irreparable harm and injury to Plaintiff in that, among other things, it deprives Plaintiff of his absolute right to determine the manner in which his image is presented to the general public through merchandising; deceives the public as to the origin and sponsorship of such merchandise; wrongfully trades upon and cashes in on his reputation as well as his commercial value and exclusive rights in the ROD WAVE trademark, and it irreparably harms and injures his reputation.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

**Violation of 15 U.S.C. §1125(a)**

15. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 14 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

16. This count arises under Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act relating to trademarks, trade names and unfair competition entitled "False Designation of Origin and False Descriptions Forbidden," 15 U.S.C. §1125(a), and involves false descriptions in commerce.

17. The Rod Wave trademark, likeness and logos have been used widely throughout the United States. As a result of that extensive use, the ROD WAVE trademark, likeness and logos have developed and now have a secondary and distinctive trademark meaning to purchasers of goods including, but not limited to, t-shirts.

18. The Bootleg Merchandise sold by Defendants, which contains the ROD WAVE likeness, logos and/or trademark, is of the same general nature and type as the merchandise sold and/or authorized to be sold by Plaintiff. Because the Bootleg Merchandise is so related to and indistinguishable from authorized merchandise that Plaintiff sells, it is likely to, and is certainly intended to, cause confusion to purchasers.

19. Defendants, by misappropriating and using the ROD WAVE trademark, likeness and logos, have misrepresented and falsely described to the general public the origin and source of the Bootleg Merchandise so as to create the likelihood of confusion by the ultimate purchaser as to both the source and sponsorship of the Bootleg Merchandise sold at Rod Wave concert dates.

20. In addition, Defendants' sale of the Bootleg Merchandise will infringe upon and dilute the Rod Wave trademark and logos.

21. The Bootleg Merchandise is in most instances of inferior quality and the sale thereof will be damaging to and will dilute the goodwill generated by Plaintiff and the reputations that Plaintiff has developed in connection with the sale of legitimate and quality merchandise.

22. Defendants' unlawful merchandising activities have been and will be conducted without Plaintiff's permission or authority of and those actions constitute express and implied

misrepresentations that the Bootleg Merchandise was created, authorized or approved by Plaintiff. Defendants have not obtained any license, authority or approval to manufacture, distribute or sell such Bootleg Merchandise.

23. Defendants' acts are in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1125(a) in that Defendants will use, in connection with goods and services, a false designation of origin and have caused and will continue to cause those goods (the Bootleg Merchandise) to enter into interstate commerce.

24. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and, if Defendants' activities are not enjoined, will suffer irreparable harm and injury to Plaintiff's image and reputation as a result thereof.

### **DAMAGES**

25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 through 14 and 16 through 24 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

26. It is impossible to ascertain the amount of compensation that will afford Plaintiff adequate relief for Defendants' actual, threatened and contemplated unlawful activities and Plaintiff will have no adequate remedy in the event that such unlawful activities are allowed to occur.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court grant the following relief:

1. The Court issue a Permanent Injunction restraining, enjoining and prohibiting Defendants from manufacturing, distributing or selling all merchandise bearing the ROD WAVE name, trademark, logos and/or likeness and/or anything confusingly similar thereto.

2. Such other and further relief that this Court deems to be reasonable, necessary and just.

Dated: October 8, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Kenneth A. Feinswog

Kenneth A. Feinswog

Attorney for Plaintiff

California State Bar No. 129562

Southern District of Texas Bar No. 367441

400 Corporate Pointe, Suite 300

Culver City, California 90230

310-846-5800

kfeinswog@gmail.com

**EXHIBIT A**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>VENUE</u></b>
10/19/2024	Desert Diamond Arena Phoenix, AZ
10/20/2024	Intuit Dome Inglewood, CA
10/21/2024	Oakland Arena Oakland, CA
10/25/2024	Golden One Center Sacramento, CA
10/30/2024	Frost Bank Center San Antonio, TX
10/31/2024	Toyota Center Houston, TX
11/1/2024	American Airlines Center Dallas, TX
11/3/2024	Ball Arena Denver, CO
11/5/2024	T-Mobile Center Kansas, MO
11/6/2024	Paycom Center Oklahoma City, OK
11/8/2024	Enterprise Center St. Louis, MO
11/9/2024	FedEx Forum Memphis, TN
11/10/2024	Rupp Arena/KFC Yumi Center Lexington/Louisville, KY

11/12/2024	PPG Paints Arena Pittsburgh, PA
11/13/2024	Little Caesars Arena Detroit, MI
11/15/2024	Xcel Energy Center Minneapolis, MN
11/16/2024	Fiserv Forum Milwaukee, WI
11/18/2024	United Center Chicago, IL
11/20/2024	???Nationwide Arena Columbus, OH
11/21/2024	Gainbridge Fieldhouse Indianapolis, IN
11/23/2024	TD Garden Boston, MA
11/24/2024	Capital One Arena Washington, DC
11/26/2024	PNC Arena Raleigh, NC
11/29/2024	CFG Bank Arena Baltimore, MD
11/30/2024	Wells Fargo Center Philadelphia, PA
12/2/2024	UBS Center Elmont, NY
12/3/2024	Prudential Center Newark, NJ
12/5/2024	State Farm Arena Atlanta, GA



12/6/2024	Colonial Life Arena Columbia, SC
12/8/2024	Spectrum Center Charlotte, NC
12/9/2024	Bridgestone Arena Nashville, TN
12/10/2024	Legacy Arena Birmingham, AL
12/13/2024	Smoothie King Center New Orleans, LA
12/16/2024	Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena Jacksonville, FL
12/17/2024	Kia Center Orlando, FL
12/18/2024	Amerant Bank Arena Ft. Lauderdale, FL